



Surprisingly Metro. Refreshingly Real.

PRESS RELEASE

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For more information, contact:

Sally Bates

City of Bangor

207-992-4234

sally.bates@bgrme.org

Expansion Management Magazine Gives Bangor MSA 5-Star "Quality of Life Rating" for 2nd Year in a Row

BANGOR, ME has again been selected as a "5-Star Quality of Life Metro" in Expansion Management's 8th Annual "Quality of Life Quotient" in its just-released May/June 2006 Issue.

Expansion Management compared 362 MSA's according to nearly 50 statistical criteria and came up with a ranking that most middle-class people can identify with. "Quality of life is available in just about any place in the United States," said Bill King, editor of Expansion Management magazine. "The only question is how much it will cost to an individual to tap into it. That's an important issue for employers, because it translates into how much an employer will have to pay to obtain and retain quality employees."

To come up with their final rankings, Expansion Management grouped its findings into nine major categories: affordable housing, good public schools, peace of mind, a balanced standard of living, broad opportunities for adult education, reasonable traffic and commuting, good commercial air access, a high adult education level and, from an employer's perspective, a young, reasonably-priced work force from which to find good employees.

"True quality of life is about employees being able to afford to tap into the American Dream," continues King. "It's about being able to afford to own a home, to be able to send your children to good schools, to feel safe from crime, to live in a place with a reasonable cost of living. This study simply shows you a way to quantify what most people still consider a highly subjective area."

See the complete list of 5-Star Metros at

http://www.expansionmanagement.com/smo/DocReserve/DocReserve_Content/5-Star%20QOL%20Metros.pdf.